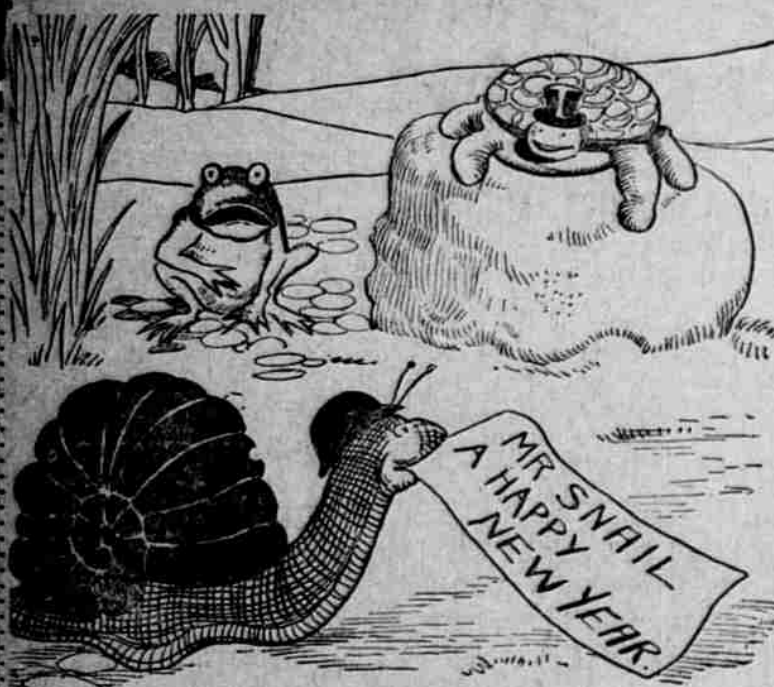


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ROOSEVELT'S COLLEGE DAYS.

President's Career at Harvard
Described by Jacob Riis.

INSTANCES OF HIS STRENUOUSITY.

Boxing Boots With Fellow Students,
Says the Author, Proved Him a
Vigorous Athlete—How He Beat a
Man With a Reputation as a Fight-
er—Skipping the Rope One of His
Exercises.

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pany.]

"He became instantly a favorite with his class of one hundred and seventy odd," says Jacob Riis in the Outlook, writing about Theodore Roosevelt's career at Harvard.

"They laughed at his oddities, at his unexpressed enthusiasm, at his liking for Elizabethan poetry, voted him 'more or less crazy' with true Harvard conservatism, respected him highly for his scholarship on the same solid ground and fell in even with his notions for his own sake, as afterward some of them fell in behind him in the rush up San Juan hill, leaving lives of elegance and ease to starve with him in the trenches and do the chores of a trooper in camp under a tropical sun.

"It is remembered that Theodore Roosevelt set Harvard to skipping the rope, a sport it had abandoned years before with knickerbockers, but it suited this student to keep up the exercise as a means of strengthening the leg muscles, and rope skipping became a pastime of the class of '80. In the gymnasium they wore red stockings with their practice suits. Roosevelt had happened upon a pair that were striped a patriotic red and white, and he wore them, at first to the amazement of the other students. He did not even know that they had attracted attention, but when some one told him he laughed and kept them on. It was what the legs could do in the stockings he was there to find out.

"Twenty years after I heard a policeman call him a dude when he walked up the steps of police headquarters, New York, with a silk sash about his waist, something no man had been known to wear in Mulberry street in the memory of the oldest there, and I saw the same officer looking after him down the street as long as he was in sight the day he went and turn back with a sigh that made him my friend forever. 'There won't such another come through that door again in my time, that there won't.' And there did not. The old man is retired long since.

"He joined the exclusive 'Pork' club and forthwith smashed all its hallowed traditions and made the Porcellan blood run cold by taking his dance to luncheon where no woman ever trod before. He simply saw no reason why a lady should not lunch at a gentleman's club, and when the shocked bachelor minds of the 'Pork' club searched the horizon for one to confront him with they discovered that there was none. Accordingly the world still stood, and so did the college.

"He played polo, did athletic stunts with the fellows and drove a two wheeled gig badly, having no end of good times in it. When he put on the boxing gloves he nailed the first comer with the more delight if he happened to be the champion of the class, who was twice his size and beef. The pomeling that ensued he took with the most hearty good will, and though his nose bled and his glasses fell off, putting him at a disadvantage, he refused grudgingly to cry quarter and pressed the fight home in a way that always reminds me of that redoubtable Danish sea fighter, Peter Tordenskjold, who kept up the fight, firing pewter dinner plates and mugs from his one gun, when on his little smack there was left but a single man of the crew, and he wept." Tordenskjold killed the captain of the Swedish frigate with one of his mugs and got away. Roosevelt was bested in his boxing matches often enough; but, however superior, his opponents bore away always the impression that they had faced a fighter.

"But the battle was not always to the strong in those days. I have heard a story of how Roosevelt beat a man with a reputation as a fighter, but not, it would appear, with the instincts of a gentleman. I shall not vouch for it, for I have not asked him about it. But it is typical enough to be true except for the wonder how the fellow got in there. He took, so the story runs, a mean advantage and struck a blow that drew blood before Roosevelt had got his gloves on right. The bystanders cried 'foul,' but Roosevelt smiled one of his grim smiles.

"I guess you made a mistake. We do not do that way here," he said, offering the other his gloved hand in formal salutation as a sign to begin hostilities. The next moment his right shot out and took the man upon the point of the jaw, and the left followed suit. In two minutes he was down and out. Roosevelt was 'in form' that day. All the fighting blood in him had been aroused by the unfairness of the blow. I have seen him when his blood was up for good cause once or twice, and I rather think the story must be true. If I were to fight him and wanted to win I should shun a foul blow as I would the pestilence. I am sure I would not run half the risk from the latter."

Plan to Stop Auto Scorching.
The Farmers' Automobile league has been organized in Illinois to stop scorching, which has resulted in many serious accidents to property and persons.

SALT LAKE EVAPORATION.

Artificial Means Necessary to Preserve Utah's Natural Wonder.

An interesting question has been taken up of late by the hydrographic bureau of the United States geological survey in connection with the apparent drying up of Salt lake in Utah, says a Washington dispatch. The level of the lake is gradually falling because of the evaporation and the diminishing supply of drainage water, due either to a change of climate or the denudation of the mountains by the lumbering industry.

The level of the water in the lake has fallen six feet in the last decade, and the rate of fall seems to be gradually increasing. The building by the Southern Pacific of the Lucin cut-off has suggested that the area of the lake might be reduced and the smaller body of water preserved at its former level for the next half century at least. That the lake can be saved from ultimate evaporation to a very small body of water seems to be impossible unless some artificial means is resorted to.

The Lucin cut-off would return to desert one-third the area of the lake, or about 7,000 square miles. This part of the lake receives no important streams, and no question of injury to climate or to private interests would stand in the way of putting the plan into execution. If the water in the further one-third of the lake is turned into the part of the lake south and east of the cut-off the added volume of water would raise the level of the smaller lake about five feet. This would assure the people of the region of the beneficial influence of the lake on the climate and continue its enjoyment as a watering place. The receding of the water has of late made it necessary to move large buildings used by visitors half a mile into the edge of the lake. The Lucin cut-off is practically a dam as now constructed. The cost of completing it for the purpose of draining the north end of the lake would not be great.

FORGOT HIS WOODEN LEG.

Absentminded Customer Left It in a Kansas City (Mo.) Savings Bank.

Lots of funny things are left by the carelessly disposed in queer places, but about the oddest find of this sort recorded recently is that of Will Webb, cashier of the Missouri Savings bank, who was, until it was called for, the unwilling custodian of a man's wooden leg, which the owner had left on the bank's counter, says the Kansas City Journal.

"He came in the other day," said Mr. Webb, "and left an elongated package on the counter when he departed. When it was noticed and brought to me, it seemed heavy, so in the hope of ascertaining its ownership I opened it, only to find that it was a wooden leg! I can imagine my surprise.

"My first thought was, How could the man have walked away if he left his leg here? But then I remembered that it was wrapped up and concluded that he must have been wearing an old one. So I put it away until I could trace the ownership. Sure enough, next day in came a man who asked the teller if he had left his leg here the day before. The teller was startled, but managed to refer the man to me, and I soon put him in possession of his extremity.

"Lots of funny things are left here. Up to then the queerest was a clarinet, on which I couldn't play, and a woman's petticoat, which I couldn't wear. Both were called for later on."

A HARD WINTER SIGN.

Connecticut Farmer Bases His Prediction on Hog's "Melt."

"You'll find we are to have an unusually long winter this time and that before it has passed there will be some 'rip snorting' cold days. They'll come in the latter part of January or early in February, and when they come you'll think that a large part of the Klondike has been handed out to you. Yes, you can laugh, but it doesn't fence me. I have only butchered one hog, my own. That was enough." So spoke Fred Larabee of Marion, Conn., says a Southampton dispatch to the Springfield Union.

Mr. Larabee is known hereabout as a Wiggins when it comes to prognosticating cold weather. He does it by a part of a hog's anatomy called the melt.

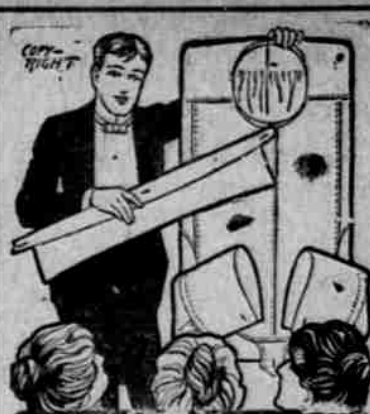
He says he doesn't know what part the melt plays in a hog's life, but "it's a corking good guide to a man who can read it and wants to know what the winter has in store for him and his wood pile."

All Invited.

The Rev. F. S. Henson, formerly pastor of the First Baptist church of Chicago, later of the Hanson Place Baptist church of Brooklyn, and who has accepted a call to Tremont temple, Boston, recently lectured in Springfield, Mass., and one of the foremost pastors in the city was asked to announce the lecture from the pulpit. This is the way the pastor made the announcement, says the Boston Post: "The Rev. Dr. Henson will lecture on 'Fools' in the State Street Baptist church on Wednesday evening, and I trust a great many will attend."

A New Affliction.

One of the features of Sunday and holiday dinners at the Hotel Normandie in Detroit is singing by the Clipper quartet, the singers sitting at a table in the dining room in full dress and singing between courses, says the Detroit News. "But it has its drawbacks," said Landford Roe. "The other evening the singing made such a hit that people took twice the ordinary length of time for their dinner, while others were waiting for their seats. Finally I slipped over to the quartet and told them to sing 'The Vacant Chair.'"



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